



Words of Wisdom by Werle!

Dear Section Members, Residents, Staff, and Members of the Orthopaedic Community:

As fall weather approaches and we return to our academic year routines, I hope you all had time to relax and recharge over the summer months with family and friends. One of the keys to providing exceptional orthopaedic patient care is to ensure that our surgeons, trainees, and surgical teams remain healthy. Vacations are an important part of that.

The Section welcomes two new surgeon colleagues this fall: Dr. Murray Wong will join the SHC group (Arthroplasty/Trauma) and Dr. Dan You will join the FMC group (Upper Extremity/Trauma). On behalf of the Section, I wish Murray and Dan well and I look forward to their many academic and clinical contributions in the years ahead.

One of the highlights of the fall is the in-person Section meeting to kick off the academic year. This year's event will be held on Monday, October 6th at Speeders South (new location). This will include food, racing, and a stimulating Section meeting agenda. Section members, please plan to attend. More details will be forthcoming from Chesska.

The 2025 Section Retreat planning is well underway. It will be held on November 22-23, 2025, at Chateau Lake Louise. Two main topics will be discussed through a facilitator: the future of trauma care delivery and on call at all sites in Calgary in 2030 and beyond. These are critical topics that need input from as many of the Section members as possible. Please contact Chesska to book your room as the room block is filling up fast. We have arranged amazing Saturday evening entertainment as well.

Finally, thank you for all you do to help orthopaedic patients throughout our zone. Calgary and Alberta is fortunate to have a strong U of C Orthopaedic Section to achieve this. You, as individual members, make this a reality every day.

Regards,

Jason Werle, Chief, Section of Orthopaedic Surgery

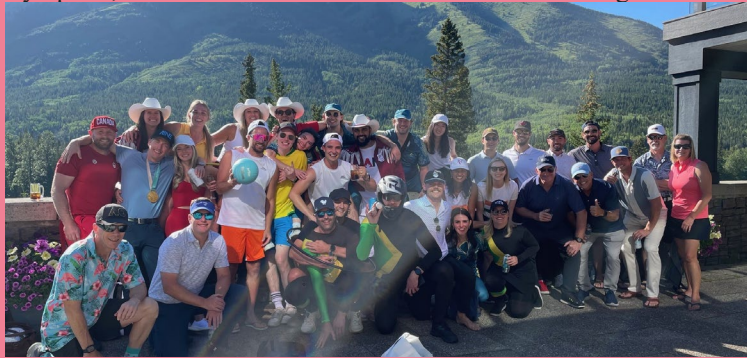
Education – Making the Grade!

Welcome to the new group of first year residents who started on July 1, 2025: Cole Elashuk, Leah Ferrie, Lorena Hurtado, Molly Rutherford, and Tommy Nixon.

2025-2026 Lead Residents: Anna-Lee Policicchio (R5) and Meredith Stadnyk (R4).

During his R5 year, Logan Woods was chosen as the recipient of the 2024-2025 Dr. Spencer McLean Memorial Award, which was announced at the June 2025 year-end celebration.

Thank you to all those who participated in the Orthopaedic Residents Annual Golf Tournament and to those who sponsored a resident. The resident's theme was "Ortholympics", we had beautiful weather and the event was a great success!



In July 2025 the Spine Division posted their 2023-24 Annual Report which contains lots of information that individuals may be interested in reading – this report can be found at <https://calgaryspine.ca/about/documents>.

Research – Skeletal Mentions!

COREF 2025: Applications due by 2359 hrs on October 20, 2025; review process will take place over the October-November timeframe and final decisions will be announced in late December/early January.

We will be offering Blue Sky Session(s) during the October to November timeframe and letters of invitation will be distributed soon (organizing the sessions will happen in October).

The 13th Annual Orthopaedic Resident Research Day (RRD) is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2026 – please mark your calendar for this important annual event that highlights the research that is conducted by our Orthopaedic Residents. By the end of October, we hope to advertise the name of our Visiting Professor for RRD 2026.

The Frank Talks will be taking place on March 18, 2026 – Faculty please mark this date in your calendar and watch for an email early in the new year for your invitation to RSVP for this event.

We are looking to update our Research Portfolio Membership ... if you have a keen interest in research and would like to be part of this Portfolio/Committee, please reach out to Judy at acortho@ucalgary.ca prior to the end of September.

News from the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health

Congratulations to Cheryl Barnabe who is a recipient of a Killam Annual Professorship; She has also the recipient of a CIHR-IMHA Inclusive Research Excellence Prize for her project "Arthritis Liaison: A First Nations community-based patient care facilitator".

The McCaig Summer Student Symposium took place on August 13 and was very successful and well attended.

Upcoming Events: *September 19* Annual Cy Frank Legacy Lecture – "10 Years of Innovation", and *November 8* Annual Wood Forum "Strength in Science: Exercise for Bone and Joint Health" (speakers are Leigh Gabel, Laurie Hiemstra, Lauren Beaupre and Matt Jordan).

Orthopaedic Surgery Important Dates: *November 13-14* Townsend Day // *November 22-23* Orthopaedic Faculty Retreat // *November 30* Orthopaedic Family Holiday Brunch // *February 4* CaRMS Interviews // *February 27* Annual Geoff Cragg Ski Day // *March 18* The Frank Talks // *April 16* Annual Spencer McLean Memorial Faculty vs Residents Hockey Game // *April 23* 13th Annual Orthopaedic Resident Research Day // *June 25* Orthopaedic Surgery Year End Team Building Event

Course Organization/Participation:

Aaron Bois/Gurpreet Dhaliwal/Prism Schneider, Members of 2025 Scientific Planning Committee for the Canadian Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting 2025.

Awards/Honours:

Brent Edwards, via the International Society of Biomechanics, has been elected President-Elect which will start in July.

Karys Hildebrand was the recipient of the Dr Peter Cruse Memorial Award at the University of Calgary Surgeons' Day 2025, June 20th and her presentation was entitled "The clinically relevant STING agonist: E7766, induces immunogenic tumor clearance and protection against recurrent disease in a mouse model of soft tissue sarcoma".

Gareth Ryan was awarded First Place in the Resident Research Showcase as part of the University of Calgary Surgeons' Day 2025, June 20th.

Joe Kendal, Michael Leslie, Brent Benavides, Murray Wong, Shannon Puloski Michael Monument were recipients of a Sharpest Knife (Live Grant) Competition as part of the University of Calgary Surgeons' Day 2025, June 20th – their project is "3D MAP: 3D-Printed Minimally Invasive Augmentation of the Pelvis. A cadaveric study of minimally invasive augmentation for periacetabular bone metastasis".

Prism Schneider has been appointed President of the Canadian Orthopaedic Research Society.

Nick Mohtadi was the recipient of The Arthroscopy Association of Canada Award for the Overall Best Paper in the Arthroscopy and Sports Medicine Category at the 2025 COA/CORS/CORA Annual Meeting.

Nick Mohtadi received second place for the Jan I. Gillquist Scientific Research Award in recognition of the best scientific paper read at the Scientific Program of the 15th Biennial International Society of Arthroscopy, Knee Surgery and Orthopaedic Sports Medicine (ISAKOS) Congress 2025 in Munich Germany for his project "Ten Year Patient Reported Clinical and Radiographic Outcomes of a Randomized Clinical Trial Comparing Patellar Tendon, Hamstring Tendon and Double-Bundle ACL Reconstructions".

Grants:

Prism Schneider received a CIHR Catalyst Grant in Digital Health for Early to Mid-Career Researchers for her project "Digital Provincial POWER Program: Personalized osteoporosis care with early recognition".

The following individuals were recipients of 2025 McCaig Institute SPARC Ignite Grants: Erin Brennand /Ganesh Swamy "Is the radiographic progression of degenerative scoliosis influenced by post-menopausal hormone replacement treatment in Alberta?"; Ganesh Swamy/Koren Roach "Development of solutions for the unsolved problems plaguing proximal joint kyphosis: A dual fluoroscopy study of thoracolumbar kinematics"; Joe Kendal/Emily Rogers-Bradley "Biomechanical and functional outcomes of an actuated knee orthosis in patients with extensor mechanism deficiencies after total knee arthroplasty" and Ranjani Somayaji/Ganesh Swamy "Exploring the association of microbial signatures in intervertebral disc herniations and spontaneous resorption: A prospective pilot study".

Presentations:

Joe Kendal, "From Bench to Bone: Building a Research Identity in Science and Surgery" as the invited Speaker for the McCaig Institute Summer Student Symposium on August 13.

Prism Schneider "Evaluating Cancer-associated Thrombosis in Patients with Metastatic Bone Disease: Informing personalized thromboprophylaxis", University of Calgary Surgeons' Day 2025, June 20th

Tim Lasswell "Mechanical Analysis of a Kickstand Implant for Utilization in Unstable Lumbosacral Spine Fractures", University of Calgary Surgeons' Day 2025, June 20th

Gareth Ryan "Early Identification of Impaired Fracture Healing Using Biomarkers: A pilot study", University of Calgary Surgeons' Day 2025, June 20th

Karys Hildebrand "The Clinically Relevant STING Agonist: E7766, induces immunogenic tumor clearance and protection against recurrent disease in a mouse model of soft tissue sarcoma" Dr. Dr. Peter Cruise Memorial Award Presentation at the University of Calgary 2025 Surgeons' Day, June 20th.

Some recent publications:

Chen J, Fu X, Ahmed AS, Hart DA, Zhou Z, Ackermann PW. (2025). Systematic Review of Relevant Biomarkers for Human Connective Tissue Repair and Healing Outcome: Implications for Understanding Healing Processes and Design of Healing Interventions. *Advances in wound care*, 10.1089/wound.2024.0233. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1089/wound.2024.0233>

Otoo BS, Moo EK, Komeili A, Hart DA, Herzog W. (2025). From fluctuations to stability: In-Situ chondrocyte response to cyclic compressive loading. *Journal of biomechanics*, 186, 112734. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbiomech.2025.112734>

Dhiman MS, Salaam MA, Bader TJ, Nicholls F, Jacobs WB, Thomas KC, Bouchard J, Salo PT, Hart DA, Swamy G, Duncan NA. (2025). Human Disc Degeneration Is Accompanied by a Loss of Anterior Annulus Fibrosus Interlamellar Matrix Integrity as Assessed by Peel Tests. *JOR spine*, 8(2), e70067. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jsp2.70067>

Kakavand R, Tahghighi P, Ahmadi R, Edwards WB, Komeili A. (2025). SwinUNETR Segmentation with Automated Geometry Filtering for Biomechanical Modeling of Knee Joint Cartilage. *Annals of biomedical engineering*, 53(4), 908–922. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10439-024-03675-x>

de Brito Fontana H, Rios JL, Michail J, Seerattan RA, Joumaa V, Hart DA, Reimer RA, Herzog W. (2025). Skeletal Muscle Composition and the Effects of Exercise and/or Prebiotic Fiber in Preventing Diet Related Morbidities. *Journal of functional morphology and kinesiology*, 10(2), 113. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jfmk10020113>

Hunter DJ, MacGregor K, Shields R, Black AM, Rezansoff, Mohtadi NG (2025): Randomized Clinical Feasibility Trial: Comparing a restrictive and protective range-of-motion brace for the nonsurgical management of the medial collateral ligament of the knee. *Clin J Sport Medicine* 35(4):415-422.

Hunter DJ, Black AM, Culos-Reed, SN, Lun VMYU, Mohtadi NG (2025). Exploring Predictors of Brace-Wearing Adherence in Non-surgical Treatment of Acute Knee Medial Collateral Ligament Injuries. *Clin J Sport Med* 35(4):423-430.

Hart DA. (2025). The Use of MSCs, iPSCs, and EVs in the Repair of Human MSK Tissues: Is Ultimate Success Dependent on Developing Excellent Implant Materials as Well as Creating an Optimal Environment for Implantation? What Is the Rationale for These Choices?. *International journal of molecular sciences*, 26(13), 6250. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms26136250>

Hart DA, Zernicke RF. (2025). Editorial: Optimal physical activity across the lifespan for people of all abilities. *Frontiers in sports and active living*, 7, 1645447. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fspor.2025.1645447>